CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication: Making Chlorate and Perchlorate

Other known title(s): Potassium Perchlorate

OFLC ref: 1800622.041

Medium: Text File

Publisher: Not stated

Country of origin: Not stated

Language: English

Applicant: Commissioner of Police

Classification: Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted

to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.

Descriptive note: None

Display conditions: None

Date of entry in Register: 18 June 2019

Date of direction to issue

a label:

No direction to issue a label has been issued

Date of notice of decision: 18 June 2019

Summary of reasons for decision:

The text file contains instructions for making chemical compounds that have application in explosives. Although the resulting mixtures are restricted substances, and possession or use of them would be an offense under New Zealand law the likelihood of successfully creating them from these instructions is doubtful and the numerous warnings contained in the publication limit its encouraging effect. Therefore the publication cannot seriously be considered promotional or encouraging of crime. However, the unrestricted availability of the publication is still likely to be injurious to the public good. Children and young people, who are in the process of developing their cognitive abilities, are at risk of following the instructions without taking adequate precautions, or fully understanding the consequences of doing so. Adults, on the other hand, are likely to have the maturity and experience to understand the warnings, and appreciate the physical risks and potential legal ramifications of following the instructions contained in the publication. They are likely to exhibit appropriate caution and take steps to mitigate any potential harm. Therefore, the text file is restricted to those aged 18 and over, as this is a justified limitation on the right to freedom of expression contained in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 in order to prevent injury to the public good.